# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA + + + + + ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD + + + + + MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Taj Mahal Enterprises, Ltd.

t/a The Manor (formerly
Fiesta Restaurant & Lounge) Show Cause
1327 Connecticut Avenue NW Hearing
Retailer CR
License No. 882

Case No. 13-CMP-00289

May 13, 2015

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board met in Alcoholic Beverage Control Hearing Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th Street N.W., Washington, D.C., Chairperson Ruthanne Miller presiding.

# PRESENT:

RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson NICK ALBERTI, Member DONALD BROOKS, Member MICHAEL SILVERSTEIN, Member

HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member

JAMES SHORT, Member

# P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 1 2 (10:09 a.m.) CHAIR MILLER: We can move into our 3 show cause hearing which was scheduled for 10:00 4 for Case number 13-CMP-00289 for The Manor which 5 was formerly Fiesta Restaurant and Lounge located 6 7 at 1327 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest, License number 882 in ANC 2B. Are the parties here for 8 9 that case? MR. RIVERO: Fernando Rivero for the 10 District of Columbia. 11 12 CHAIR MILLER: Good morning, Mr. 13 Rivero. MR. RIVERO: I expected the Licensee 14 15 to be here, actually. CHAIR MILLER: To be here? 16 17 MR. RIVERO: Yes, because we have an 18 agreement to present an offer in compromise. I 19 do not see the Licensee. Notwithstanding, the 20 Government did attempt to contact the witness for this hearing, and the witness is not present. 21

The Investigator is no longer with the

1	Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration.
2	He's with another arm of the district government.
3	I've not been able to secure a response for him
4	from this hearing. And therefore, I would move
5	for a continuation of the Show Cause hearing so
6	that I can secure the participation of the
7	investigator.
8	CHAIR MILLER: Okay. You expected the
9	Licensee to be here?
LO	MR. RIVERO: I did.
11	CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Do you, it's
12	only 11 minutes after 10:00. It's not huge. Do
13	you want to try to contact them?
L <b>4</b>	MR. RIVERO: No. I would rather
15	CHAIR MILLER: Okay, you would move
<b>L</b> 6	for a continuance?
L7	MR. RIVERO: have a continuance
18	date of the show cause hearing.
19	CHAIR MILLER: Okay.
20	MR. RIVERO: If we have a offer to
21	present before then, we would gladly do so.
22	CHAIR MILLER: All right.

1	MR. RIVERO: But I need the time to
2	secure my witness.
3	CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Board Members
4	have any question on that? Okay, do you want to
5	just confer with our General Counsel as to
6	another date, or do
7	MR. RIVERO: I can do that, that's
8	fine.
9	CHAIR MILLER: Okay, let me just
10	MR. RIVERO: If the motion's granted,
11	I'm happy to send an email and figure that new
12	date out.
13	CHAIR MILLER: All right. Okay, Mr.
14	Rivero, we have an opening on June 17th at 1:30.
15	If that's something you can do.
16	MR. RIVERO: Yes, that would be the
17	Show Cause hearing which has now been vacated.
18	So I can certainly put this one in.
19	CHAIR MILLER: Okay.
20	MR. RIVERO: The time slot was on my
21	calendar anyway.
22	CHAIR MILLER: So okay, so we'll

1	continue to June 17th. But is that there are
2	two cases, correct?
3	MR. RIVERO: There is another one
4	scheduled at 11:00 a.m. They were not scheduled
5	at the same time.
6	CHAIR MILLER: Okay, so we're just
7	continuing this one. It's not clear that he
8	won't be here for 11:00.
9	MR. RIVERO: Correct.
10	CHAIR MILLER: Okay.
11	MR. RIVERO: My witness
12	CHAIR MILLER: Oh, you have the same
13	witness issue?
14	MR. RIVERO: No.
15	CHAIR MILLER: Oh, you don't?
16	MR. RIVERO: I do not.
17	CHAIR MILLER: Okay, so we're still on
18	for the 11 as of now?
19	MR. RIVERO: Sure.
20	CHAIR MILLER: Okay, so Case number
21	00289 is continued until June 17th, 1:30 p.m.
22	And our next hearing is not until 11:00 a.m. so

1	the Board will now recess.
2	MR. RIVERO: Great, thank you.
3	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
4	went off the record at 10:13 a.m. and resumed at
5	11:08 a.m.)
6	CHAIR MILLER: Okay, the Board is back
7	on the record for its morning calendar. And
8	where we left off was with Case number 13-CMP-
9	00289, which is the Manor located at 1327
10	Connecticut Avenue Northwest, License number 882.
11	Before the break, we had continued
12	that case to June 17th at 1:30 p.m., but I
13	understand that that may want to be revisited. So
14	I'm going to call the parties up on that case if
15	they're here. At that point this morning, only
16	Mr. Rivero was here on behalf of the Government.
17	MR. MALLICK: Good morning.
18	CHAIR MILLER: Good morning, sir.
19	Would you identify yourself
20	MR. RIVERO: Fernando Rivero for the
21	District of Columbia.
22	CHAIR MILLER: Okay. And sir, are you

1	here on behalf of The Manor?
2	MR. RIVERO: I think it's important to
3	speak a little loudly so that
4	MR. MALLICK: I'm so sorry, I have a
5	little problem hearing.
6	CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Could you say
7	your name for the record?
8	MR. MALLICK: My name is Raj Mallick,
9	R-A-J, M-A-L-L-I-C-K. I own the liquor license
LO	number 882 of Taj Mahal Enterprises, Limited.
11	CHAIR MILLER: Thank you. Okay, Mr.
12	Rivero, do you seek to revisit that case?
13	MR. RIVERO: Yes.
L <b>4</b>	CHAIR MILLER: Okay.
15	MR. RIVERO: Actually, to provide the
16	Board a bit of background, I had been assigned
17	this case for another assistant attorney general.
18	And at the time some months ago, I had asked for
19	a continuance, in part because the Licensee
20	wanted to present a witness who at the time was
21	out of the country.
22	This is a case concerning a charge of

no ABC manager on duty. And that manager in question was not present. Also at the same time, there were some questions raised about ownership issues surrounding the license and the business as it was operating at the time. It was then known as Fiesta Restaurant and Lounge, I believe.

Subsequently, I was assigned another case that was scheduled for today at 11:00, and that case is also Fiesta Lounge, although currently known by another name, The Manor.

The licensing issues that I just referenced concern both the operations of the entity then known as Fiesta and now currently known as The Manor.

I did some inquiry into The Manor. It appears that the Agency had taken some approval actions on licensing applications that were filed, and it was subsequently concluded that the names of the operators needed to be on the license.

I met with the Licensee, and also introduced him to someone in licensing to take

care of those issues. And so he has agreed and he understands what he needs to do. And I believe that there is an application pending.

Mr. Mallick does understand that the operator's name needs to be on the license, and there is a procedure to remedy that situation in progress. That leaves us with the facts of the case that was scheduled at 10:00 and is now being recalled.

I met with the Licensee because now I have two cases rather than one in my office. I did explain to the Licensee, and the Licensee does understand that notwithstanding the fact that the persons involved in the management of these operations and the actions that they took were not him because his name was on the license and the proper transfer process did not take place.

But he's legally responsible for the actions that take place at those establishments.

And in fact, it's actually there's nothing wrong, untoward with respect to The Manor. Both of the

facts of the case scheduled for 10:00 and this case scheduled for 11:00 concern the establishment then known as Fiesta.

That establishment was managed or owned by a Mr. Tuli who was supposed to be back from India as I had been represented to the Board the last time. The Licensee has attempted to engage with this individual. He is non-responsive.

And as far as I understand, he has not returned to the United States. This is the individual whose actions are at issue in this case, in the ABC manager on duty case.

Mr. Mallick has agreed to an offer in compromise to cover his case, and also to cover the case that is scheduled at 11:00 which is an audit case. Because we have recalled this one, I will go into this particular case first.

The terms of the offer in compromise are a fine of \$2,000 payable in 60 days. The offer in compromise was a global one, and so the agreement was for a payment of \$6,000 for both

1	cases. And that is what the 60 days go to.	
2	CHAIR MILLER: With respect to this	
3	case, the \$2,000 goes to what?	
4	MR. RIVERO: It goes to Charge 1.	
5	CHAIR MILLER: It goes to Charge 1?	
6	MR. RIVERO: Yes. This is the	
7	CHAIR MILLER: Are there three charges	
8	in am I looking at the wrong one?	
9	MEMBER ALBERTI: In this case, Mr.	
10	Rivero, just to be clear	
11	CHAIR MILLER: Oh, I'm looking at the	
12	wrong one. Okay.	
13	MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Rivero, in this	
14	case there's only one charge?	
15	MR. RIVERO: It's the ABC Manager	
16	case.	
17	MEMBER ALBERTI: Right. And it's only	
18	one charge?	
19	MR. RIVERO: Yes.	
20	MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you.	
21	MR. RIVERO: Yes. So in this case,	
22	it's a \$2,000 fine.	

1	CHAIR MILLER: Got it.	
2	MR. RIVERO: Payable in 60 days.	
3	CHAIR MILLER: Got it. I want to ask	
4	just for a clarification. Mr. Mallick is the	
5	owner because he's on the License as the owner of	
6	record, correct?	
7	MR. RIVERO: Correct. This is	
8	apparently a 50 year old license. There was an	
9	establishment known as Taj Majal, an Indian	
10	restaurant that closed.	
11	Subsequently on the premises, Fiesta	
12	then opened. Fiesta closed, the individual in	
13	question essentially fled the country.	
14	CHAIR MILLER: Is that Mr. Tuli?	
15	MR. RIVERO: Yes.	
16	CHAIR MILLER: And you were saying he	
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_ /	is the responsible one because in the sense that	
18	is the responsible one because in the sense that he was running the restaurant, is that it?	
18	he was running the restaurant, is that it?	
18 19	he was running the restaurant, is that it?  MR. RIVERO: He is the actual ABC	

owner.

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CHAIR MILLER: Okay.

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MR. RIVERO: Who had left the premises I say this not only by way of proffer, but the Agency's own file, the investigative report reflects this.

CHAIR MILLER: Okay. And you also said that Mr. Mallick is working out all the procedures with ABRA at this point to remedy the license?

MR. RIVERO: I explained to Correct. Mr. Mallick that the arrangement, again by way of proffer, it was Mr. Tuli who approached Mr. Mallick for this arrangement in operations.

I had explained to Mr. Mallick that that's really the operator's name needs to be on The Agency did issue the approvals the license. before the Agency concluded that the operator's name needed to be on the license.

What I did to facilitate resolution is to connect Mr. Mallick to the appropriate person in the Agency to resolve that issue. And I

understand that's underway. 1 2 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. And do you know when the Agency issued that approval? 3 MR. RIVERO: I know it happened last 4 5 year. CHAIR MILLER: 6 Okay. 7 MR. RIVERO: Perhaps Mr. Mallick 8 knows, although I wouldn't be surprised if he 9 It was the actual applicants who did this, not him. 10 11 CHAIR MILLER: That they issued an approval but the approval wasn't sufficient 12 13 because it didn't have the operator's name on it, is that it? 14 I think there was an 15 MR. RIVERO: 16 approval, and it was later learned that what needed to happen is to have the operator's name 17 18 on the license. 19 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. I guess my 20 question is was the approval before the incidents at issue in this case? 21 22 MR. RIVERO: No.

CHAIR MILLER: Of a transfer, was it 1 2 approval of a transfer you're talking about? MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Rivero, what are 3 you talking about, approval of what? 4 MR. RIVERO: There's two things that 5 happened here. And I can't speak to Mr. Tuli 6 7 filing an application and that being approved, and Fiesta operating. 8 9 Okay. CHAIR MILLER: 10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Filing an application for what? 11 12 MR. RIVERO: To open Fiesta for ABC, 13 to open Fiesta. I cannot speak to that. 14 MEMBER ALBERTI: For a license, as a 15 transfer, as a what? 16 MR. RIVERO: I cannot speak to that. What was brought to my Agency's, to my attention 17 by the Agency was an application that the 18 19 establishment was running as The Manor, that an 20 application needed to be filed, that it was filed, that some approval took place, and someone 21 22 in the Agency concluded that the operator's name

needed to be on the license. And I put Mr. 1 2 Mallick in touch with the person at ABRA in charge of that. 3 MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Rivero, I'm sorry 4 to interrupt but this is not very helpful to me, 5 and I have to dismiss all of this discussion 6 7 because you haven't even told me what the application was. 8 9 Application for a driver's license, 10 application for a manager's license. I mean, 11 just some vague application. I don't even know what you're talking about. That's my problem 12 13 So let's just dismiss this discussion, here. unless you know what the application was. 14 15 MR. RIVERO: We're not talking about a 16 driver's license because we're here with a matter 17 18 (Simultaneous speaking) 19 MEMBER ALBERTI: Absolutely, but you 20 haven't told me. We have many types of applications. 21 22 MR. RIVERO: So we are talking about

an alcohol beverage license. 1 2 MEMBER ALBERTI: For a new --I would turn, essentially 3 MR. RIVERO: would ask the Board to look to the Agency for the 4 actions that the Agency took that were brought to 5 my attention. 6 7 And I was asked to resolve the matter by putting the Licensee in contact with the 8 9 appropriate person at the Agency to solve a licensing problem that it should not be included 10 or connected to the actions in either one of 11 12 these two cases. 13 MEMBER ALBERTI: Absolutely. And that's where I was going. So it's not relevant 14 Thank you. 15 to this case? 16 MR. RIVERO: And I would not want the Board to impute the conduct of the Licensee, the 17 18 actual license holder with respect to what's 19 going on here. 20 Absolutely. MEMBER ALBERTI: 21 you. 22 Okay. Other questions? CHAIR MILLER:

Mr. Rivero, I just want to clarify. I thought that there was some argument being made as to why Mr. Mallick, despite the fact that he's the owner, may be somewhat held less responsible or culpable with respect to these violations.

MR. RIVERO: Well, the offer in compromise is standard for the offense in question.

CHAIR MILLER: Okay.

MR. RIVERO: If there was an argument to be made that he's somewhat less culpable, the conclusion would be that he should not be fined. But I have explained to the license holder, his name is on the license, he's responsible for the actions that other people take on the premises while operating that license.

CHAIR MILLER: Okay. Thank you.

Thank you very much. That clarifies it.

MR. RIVERO: I will clarify that it was another individual who was not on the premises who was running the business. He did try to get in touch with him, but apparently he's

not available, out of the country. 1 2 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Rivero, just to 3 be clear, I would assume that since this 4 individual, Mr. Tuli, was present at the 5 establishment when this violation took place, 6 7 that Mr. Mallick at that time was able to communicate with Mr. Tuli, and that since he had 8 9 an agreement, a lease agreement with Mr. Tuli, he

Tuli, is that correct?

MR. RIVERO: Sure.

MEMBER ALBERTI: So it's clearly irrelevant that the fact that he can't communicate with Mr. Tuli now.

at some point was able to communicate with Mr.

MR. RIVERO: Actually, that's not the case. As I explained before, Mr. Tuli was to be a witness in this hearing. Mr. Mallick explained to me that he was in India, and that he would come back at a certain time to be available to testify.

Subsequently, the parties met in my

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office to negotiate the global OIC that I'm presenting for both of these cases, and it was then that Mr. Mallick represented to me that he is trying to get in touch with Mr. Tuli to figure out if he's coming back to talk about the actions that took place in this case, and Mr. Tuli is not responsive.

MEMBER ALBERTI: You know, I'm going to put it right out there. All of this seems too convenient for me. Mr. Mallick didn't know that it wasn't okay to have Mr. Tuli run the establishment is what you've implied, and now Mr. Tuli isn't present.

It just all seems too convenient for me. So you know, if you want, none of that mitigates any of the guilt for me. I'm just putting that out there.

MR. RIVERO: Which is why the offer in compromise as presented is standard as if Mr. Tuli were here and ready to testify.

MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes, I understand that. And thank you, I appreciate that. Thank

you.

CHAIR MILLER: And I understand you're saying that it's standard to Mr. Mallick as the recorded owner on the license being responsible for the violations that are alleged. Okay.

MEMBER SHORT: Madam Chair, if I may comment?

CHAIR MILLER: Sure.

MEMBER SHORT: After Mr. Tuli being here and testifying that he has managed businesses internationally and he's very well at business and he's one of the best business persons that this city could ever have. And why he wouldn't come to a hearing this important I have the same concerns Mr. Alberti has.

CHAIR MILLER: Okay. But I don't think that those concerns, I don't think, I mean, I can't tell you what not to consider, but that's really not in the record at this time at all.

What we're really being asked to consider is a basic offer in compromise of \$2,000 for a no manager on duty violation.

MEMBER SHORT: Sorry, Madam Chair, I 1 2 just wanted to make a comment. MEMBER ALBERTI: All right. 3 I assume we're moving forward to a motion? Is that where 4 we're headed? 5 Well yes, but other 6 CHAIR MILLER: 7 members may have questions or comments besides the ones that have spoken. Are there other? No? 8 9 Any other clarifications? 10 MR. RIVERO: No. I had merely pointed out that we had a OIC that covered both cases. 11 So I allowed Mr. Mallick 60 days to pay the 12 13 \$6,000 that he has agreed to pay as a result of both cases. 14 15 CHAIR MILLER: Okav. 16 MR. RIVERO: The 60 days also applies to the \$2,000 before you. 17 18 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. So I didn't 19 really get into the second case yet because I 20 understand that one Board member at least would like to consider these separately. 21 22 MR. RIVERO: That's fine.

Okay. So let me ask CHAIR MILLER: 1 2 you, Mr. Mallick, just do you agree to a penalty of \$2,000 to be paid within 60 days for your 3 violation in 00289, no ABC Manager on duty? 4 you agree to that as an offer in compromise? 5 looking at the cases individually and the first 6 7 case is \$2,000 for the one offense. (Off microphone comment) 8 9 MR. RIVERO: He cannot hear. 10 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. 11 Do you agree, she's MR. RIVERO: 12 asking you if you agree to pay the \$2,000 for 13 this case here, the ABC Manager on duty case? MR. MALLICK: 14 Yes. 15 CHAIR MILLER: Okay. 16 MR. MALLICK: Yes. 17 CHAIR MILLER: Thank you. All right. 18 Then I would move approval of the offer in compromise of \$2,000 to be paid within 60 days. 19 20 And let me add this, if not paid within 60 days, the license would be suspended. Is that correct? 21 I mean, we do that as a matter of course, but --22

I've explained to MR. RIVERO: Yes. 1 2 you that you have 60 days to pay. The license will be suspended until you pay. 3 If you don't pay after 4 CHAIR MILLER: 60. 5 MR. MALLICK: It would be paid within 6 7 60 days. CHAIR MILLER: Yes, okay. 8 9 MEMBER ALBERTI: May I ask, Mr. 10 Mallick, there is a transfer application pending 11 for your license that you now have. 12 MR. MALLICK: Yes. 13 MEMBER ALBERTI: I will tell you that you should understand that our decision to 14 15 approve that transfer may be affected by when you 16 pay. In other words, if when that transfer 17 18 application comes to us for a decision and you 19 haven't paid, it may affect our decision as to 20 when to approve the transfer. And I just want you to understand that because you have asked for 21

60 days.

1	MR. MALLICK: Sir, it would be paid
2	within 60 days.
3	MEMBER ALBERTI: All right, fine.
4	MR. RIVERO: Indulgence.
5	CHAIR MILLER: Okay.
6	MR. RIVERO: What he was saying is
7	that it's a transfer application, you understand
8	that?
9	MR. MALLICK: Yes. Yes.
10	MR. RIVERO: If they get the
11	application before you pay and they have to make
12	a decision, they may not decide because you
13	haven't paid because you've asked for 60 days.
14	Do you understand that?
15	MR. MALLICK: Yes.
16	MR. RIVERO: So if you pay before or
17	after they look at the application, the fact that
18	you haven't paid may influence their decision.
19	You understand that?
20	MR. MALLICK: Yes. I do understand
21	that.
22	MR. RIVERO: I've conveyed the Board

1	Member's statement and he says he understands.	
2	MEMBER ALBERTI: Thank you, Mr.	
3	Rivero, I appreciate that very much.	
4	CHAIR MILLER: Okay. And that Mr.	
5	Mallick has some trouble hearing. I appreciate	
6	Mr. Rivero's	
7	MR. RIVERO: That's what I'm trying to	
8	do is to facilitate.	
9	CHAIR MILLER: explaining, right.	
10	MR. MALLICK: I apologize. I have a	
11	difficulty hearing. But from what I've	
12	understood, I've understood the fine of \$2,000	
13	for 60 days, and I undertake to pay that within	
14	60 days.	
15	MEMBER ALBERTI: Right.	
16	MR. RIVERO: We also talked about	
17	MEMBER ALBERTI: I understand that.	
18	I understand. Thank you.	
19	MR. RIVERO: It's not a translation	
20	issue here. It's a	
21	CHAIR MILLER: It's a hearing	
22	MEMBER ALBERTI: I understand. Thank	

you.

CHAIR MILLER: Mr. Rivero, could you just also ask him since you're next to him if he understands that if it's not paid within 60 days, the license would be suspended until it is paid?

MR. RIVERO: Do you understand that you have to pay in 60 days, right? And if you don't pay in 60 days, the license is suspended until you pay. You understand that?

MR. MALLICK: Yes.

MR. RIVERO: Yes, he understands that.

CHAIR MILLER: Okay. I heard all that. Okay, thank you. All right. Then at this point I'm going to move that we approve this offer in compromise of \$2,000 to be paid within 60 days. If not paid within 60 days, the license will be suspended until it is paid. Do I have a second?

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Second.

CHAIR MILLER: Mr. Silverstein seconded the motion. All those in favor, say aye.

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1	(Chorus of ayes)
2	CHAIR MILLER: All those opposed?
3	(No response)
4	CHAIR MILLER: All those abstaining?
5	(No response)
6	CHAIR MILLER: Motion passes six,
7	zero, zero. Okay, so that completes case number
8	13-CMP-00289.
9	(Whereupon, the hearing in the above-
10	entitled matter was concluded at 11:30 a.m.)
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# **\$2,000** 10:20 11:3,22 21:21 22:17 23:3,7,12 23:19 26:12 27:15 **\$6,000** 10:22 22:13 **a.m** 2:2 5:4,22 6:4,5 28:10 **ABC** 8:1 10:13 11:15 12:19 15:12 23:4,13 **able** 3:3 19:7,10 above-entitled 6:3 **ABRA** 13:9 16:2 **Absolutely** 16:19 17:13 17:20 abstaining 28:4 actions 8:17 9:15,20 10:12 17:5,11 18:15 20:5 actual 12:19 14:9 17:18 add 23:20 Administration 3:1 affect 24:19 Agency 8:16 13:17,18 13:22 14:3 15:18,22 17:4,5,9 **Agency's** 13:5 15:17 ago 7:18 agree 23:2,5,11,12 agreed 9:1 10:14 22:13 agreement 2:18 10:22 19:9.9 Alberti 1:16 11:9,13,17 11:20 15:3,10,14 16:4 16:19 17:2,13,20 19:3 19:13 20:8,21 21:15 22:3 24:9,13 25:3 26:2,15,17,22 alcohol 17:1 **Alcoholic** 1:2,12,12 3:1 alleged 21:5 allowed 22:12 **ANC** 2:8 anyway 4:21 apologize 26:10 apparently 12:8 18:22 appears 8:16 applicants 14:9 **application** 9:3 15:7,10 15:18,20 16:8,9,10,11 16:14 24:10,18 25:7 25:11,17 applications 8:17 16:21 **applies** 22:16 appreciate 20:22 26:3,5 approached 13:13 **appropriate** 13:21 17:9 approval 8:16 14:3,12 14:12,16,20 15:2,4,21

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